

## CLAIMS

1. A multi-machine system for inspecting bottles  
5 comprising at least one upstream machine and a  
downstream most machine, wherein each machine  
performs at least one inspection on a bottle and a  
bottle is conveyed sequentially through the machines  
and then to a rejector, comprising
  - 10 a processor for each machine to determine  
whether a bottle is defective and should be  
rejected,
    - a hardwired connection between each upstream  
processor and the next downstream processor,
    - 15 a connection between the downstream most  
processor and the rejector,
    - said processors of the upstream machines each  
comprising means for supplying to the hardwired  
connection between the processor and the next  
20 downstream processor, a bottle rejected signal in  
the event that either the processor has determined  
that the bottle is to be rejected, or, where there  
is an next upstream machine, the processor has  
received a bottle reject signal from the next  
25 upstream machine,
    - and
      - said processor of the downstream most machine  
comprising means for supplying a bottle rejected  
signal to the rejector in the event that either the  
30 processor has determined that the bottle is to be  
rejected, or the processor has received a bottle  
reject signal from the next upstream machine.